

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A heater assembly for enhancing biometric image capture, comprising:  
a transparent conductive film, said transparent conductive film comprising  
a first edge, and a second edge opposite said first edge;  
a first conductor coupled to said first edge of said transparent conductive  
film;  
a second conductor coupled to said second edge of said transparent  
conductive film; and  
a power source connected to said first and second conductors for  
providing power to said first and second conductors.
2. The heater assembly of claim 1, further comprising a control system  
coupled to said power source for controlling temperature in said transparent  
conductive film.
3. The heater assembly of claim 2, wherein said control system is contained  
within said power source.
4. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater assembly is an  
optically transparent electrical heater.
5. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater assembly is coupled  
to an electro-optical biometric image capturing device for directly heating a  
biometric object receiving surface.
6. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein said biometric object receiving  
surface is a platen.

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7. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein said heater assembly is coupled to an adjacent surface of an electro-optical biometric image capturing device for indirectly heating a biometric object receiving surface coupled to an adjacent face of said electro-optical biometric image capturing device.

8. The heater assembly of claim 1, wherein said first conductor and said second conductor are comprised of conductive materials.

9. The heater assembly of claim 8, wherein said conductive materials are silver and copper.

10. The heater assembly of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first translucent pad coupled to said first edge of said transparent conductive film; and  
a second translucent pad coupled to said second edge of said transparent conductive film.

11. The heater assembly of claim 2, further comprising:  
a sensor to monitor heat dissipated by said transparent conductive film, said sensor being coupled to said transparent conductive film and said control system.

12. The heater assembly of claim 2, further comprising:  
a sensor to monitor heat dissipated by said transparent conductive film, said sensor being located near the transparent conductive film and being coupled to said control system.

13. A system for capturing attributes of a biometric object, comprising:  
an electro-optical biometric image capturing system; and

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a heater assembly coupled to said electro-optical biometric image capturing system for enhancing performance of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system;

wherein said heater assembly heats a biometric object receiving surface of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system to eliminate additional moisture near a biometric object on said biometric object receiving surface.

14. A method for removing additional moisture near a biometric object to be imaged, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating heat from a power source in a heater assembly coupled to an electro-optical biometric image capturing device; and

(b) dispersing the heat from said power source throughout a transparent conductive film to cause the temperature in said transparent conductive film to rise to a specified level to eliminate the additional moisture near the biometric object being imaged, thereby preventing a halo effect on a biometric image.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

(c) monitoring said heat in said transparent conductive film to maintain the temperature at a desired level suitable for eliminating additional moisture near a biometric object placed on the biometric object receiving surface.

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A1 16. A heating apparatus for heating a prism of an electronic image capturing device, thereby preventing a halo effect in an image of a biometric object resting on a platen, comprising:

a first heater assembly coupled to a first end of the prism; and

a second heater assembly coupled to a second end of the prism;

wherein said first heater assembly and said second heater assembly each include a heating element for generating heat in the prism, thereby causing temperature in the prism to rise such that a halo effect is prevented from forming on the image of the biometric object.

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17. The heating apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a thermostat controller which controls the amount of heat provided by said first heater assembly and said second heater assembly.

18. The heating apparatus of claim 17, wherein said thermostat controller controls the amount of heat provided by each heater assembly as a function of heater assembly temperature.

19. The heating apparatus of claim 17, wherein the thermostat controller \ controls the amount of heat provided such that each heater assembly operates in one of three states including:

- a full power state;
- a half power state; and
- a no power state.

20. The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein the surface of the prism is a glass platen.

21. The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein the surface of the prism is a silicone pad.

22. The heating apparatus of claim 16, wherein said heating element is a resistive heating element.

23. A method for heating a prism to remove and to prevent formation of water vapor near a biometric object to be imaged resting on a biometric object receiving surface of the prism, comprising the steps of:

- (a) generating heat from a power source in a first heating element coupled to a first side of the prism;

(b) generating heat from a power source in a second heating element coupled to a second side of the prism; and

(c) dispersing the heat from said power sources throughout the prism such that the biometric object receiving surface of the prism is heated to thereby eliminate a halo effect on the imaged biometric object.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

(d) monitoring said dispersed heat to maintain temperature at a desired level suitable for eliminating additional moisture near a biometric object placed on the biometric object receiving surface.

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